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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/916,971	07/26/2001	Phyllis A. Ellendman	10007711-1	8593

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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

ROSWELL, MICHAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/916,971

Applicant(s)

ELLENQMAN, PHYLLIS A.

Examiner

Michael Roswell

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Meister et al (US Patent 6,671,718), hereinafter Meister.

Regarding claim 1, Meister teaches a method by which an electronic mail system sends an e-mail message, checking by the electronic mail system a field of the e-mail message used to specify addresses to be removed by the electronic mail system from a "To" field, and by removing by the electronic mail system from any addresses specified in the "To" field of the e-mail message, any addresses within the field of the e-mail message used to specify addresses to be removed from the "To" field, and sending the e-mail message, taught as the use of a "Modify Addresses" control of the e-mail message that allows a user to selectively modify and remove the intended recipients of an e-mail message, including those found in the "To" field, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Regarding claims 2-3, Meister teaches removing selected addresses specified in a "Cc" field and a "Bcc" field, taught as the use of a "Modify Addresses" control of the e-mail message that allows a user to selectively modify and remove the intended recipients of an e-mail message, including those found in the "To" field, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Regarding claims 4-5, Meister teaches at least one subset of addressed to be removed from the "To" field being specified using a group list or at least one group list and at least one individually listed addresses, taught as the ability to assign aliases to groups of e-mail addresses, as seen in Fig. 3, and the selective removal of specified addresses, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Regarding claim 6, Meister teaches the ability to remove addresses from a "To" field by way of a dialog for removing addresses from any and all fields in an e-mail message used to specify addressees, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Regarding claims 7-8, Meister teaches checking by the electronic mail system a field of the e-mail message used to specify addresses to be removed by the electronic mail system from all address fields, and the ability to remove addresses from a "To" field, a "Cc" field and a "Bcc" field by way of a dialog for removing addresses from any and all fields in an e-mail message used to specify addressees, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Regarding claim 9, Meister teaches a "To" field for listing primary addresses to receive a message, and a field used to specify to the electronic mail system addresses to be removed by the electronic mail system from the "To" field in preparation for sending the message, taught as the use of a "Modify Addresses" control of the e-mail message that allows a user to selectively modify and remove the intended recipients of an e-mail message, including those found in the "To" field, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Regarding claims 10-11, and 13, Meister teaches removing selected addresses specified in a "Cc" field and a "Bcc" field, taught as the use of a "Modify Addresses" control of the e-mail message that allows a user to selectively modify and remove the intended recipients of an e-mail message, including those found in the "To" field, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Regarding claim 12, Meister teaches a dialog for removing addresses from any and all fields in an e-mail message used to specify addressees, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Regarding claim 14, Meister teaches removing selected addresses specified in a "To" field, a "Cc" field and a "Bcc" field by way of a field used to specify to the electronic mail system addresses to be removed by the electronic mail system from the address fields, taught as the use of a "Modify Addresses" control of the e-mail message that allows a user to selectively modify and remove the intended recipients of an e-mail message, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 19 December 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's argument that Meister fails to teach the use of a field of the e-mail message used to specify addresses to be removed from the "To" field, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. Meister has been shown to teach a control that allows a user to select addresses to be removed by the e-mail system before the sending of the message. The Examiner contends that this control is part of the e-mail message as it allows the user to send the message by way of the "OK" button 44 of Fig. 2, and further edit the message by way of a

message modification control as described at col. 3, lines 51-56. Therefore, the Examiner maintains the rejection of the claims over Meister.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Roswell whose telephone number is (571) 272-4055. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 6:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeza can be reached on (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2173

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael Roswell  
3/9/2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Roswell", written in a cursive style.